
U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

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CHROMIUM IN JUNE 1997

Chromite consumption decreased slightly in June 1997 compared with the previous month's revised data, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Net production of chromium ferroalloys and metal in June 1997 increased slightly compared with data for May 1997. Chromite stocks increased 5% over the same period. At the May rate of consumption, chromium stocks

represented 6 months of domestic supply.

Included in this Mineral Industry Surveys are: U.S. consumption and stocks of chromite; U.S. net production, net shipments, and stocks of chromium materials; U.S. Government inventory June 1997; and foreign trade for May 1997.

TABLE 1
U.S. SALIENT CHROMIUM STATISTICS 1/

(Metric tons, gross weight unless otherwise noted)

	1996	1997				
	Jan.-Dec.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	Jan. - June
Production:						
Chromium ferroalloys and metal: 2/						
Net production:						
Gross weight	36,800	5,730	5,270	5,800	5,810	30,400
Chromium content	26,400	4,040	3,480	3,890	3,880	20,800
Net shipments	38,800	7,610	4,750	6,590	6,750	33,100
Stainless steel production 3/	1,920,000	(4/)	NA	NA	NA	481,000 5/
Components of U.S. supply:						
Stainless steel scrap receipts	579,000	66,000	65,300	39,300	46,500	351,000
Imports for consumption						
Chromite ore	250,000	86,900	32,000	58	NA	160,000 6/
Chromium ferroalloys 7/	420,000	36,800	39,700	30,800	NA	143,000 6/
Chromium metals 8/	8,730	846	892	1,030	NA	4,220 6/
Stainless steel	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Stainless steel scrap	47	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Distribution of U.S. supply:						
Consumption:						
Chromite ore	282,000	29,400	30,700	30,500 r/	29,700	168,000
Chromium ferroalloys & metals	289,000	28,900	30,300	31,100	NA	152,000
Exports:						
Chromite ore	69,400	1,480	1,830	1,230	NA	12,000 6/
Chromium ferroalloys	15,800	841	1,060	1,020	NA	4,540 6/
Chromium metals	1,330	180	379	387	NA	1,150 6/
Stainless steel	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Stainless steel scrap	303	17	36	34	NA	133 6/
Stocks at end of period:						
Industry:						
Chromite ore:						
Chemical and metallurgical	165,000	155,000	162,000	159,000	167,000	XX
Refractory	7,890	9,200	8,900	8,930 r/	8,640	XX
Total	173,000	164,000	171,000	168,000	176,000	XX
Chromium ferroalloys and metal:						
Producer	6,450	4,980	5,500	4,710	3,770	XX
Consumer	24,400	21,000	21,600	21,800	NA	XX
Government stockpile:						
Chromite ore	1,190,000	1,160,000	1,160,000	1,150,000	1,140,000	XX
Chromium ferroalloys	1,050,000	1,030,000	1,030,000	1,020,000	1,020,000	XX
Chromium metals	7,720	7,720	7,720	7,720	7,720	XX

r/ Revised. NA Not available. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes low- and high-carbon ferrochromium, chromium concentrates, ferrochromium, chromium metal, and other miscellaneous alloys.

3/ Data on stainless steel production from American Iron and Steel Institute, quarterly production of stainless and heat resisting raw steel.

4/ Not reported monthly.

5/ Includes data for January through March; April through June not available at time of publication.

6/ Includes data for January through May; June not available at time of publication.

7/ Includes high-, medium-, and low- ferrochromium and ferrochromium silicon.

8/ Includes waste and scrap and other.

TABLE 2
U.S. GOVERNMENT STOCKPILE INVENTORY 1/ OF CHROMIUM MATERIALS 2/

(Metric tons)

Period	Chromite ore			Chromium ferroalloys			Chromium metal	
	Chemical	Metal-lurgical	Refractory	High-carbon ferro-chromium	Low-carbon ferro-chromium	Ferro-chromium silicon	Alumino-thermic	Electrolytic
1996:								
June	220,000	658,000	327,000	738,000	283,000	52,900	2,670	5,020
July	220,000	655,000	322,000	738,000	283,000	52,900	2,670	5,020
August	220,000	655,000	322,000	738,000	283,000	52,900	2,670	5,020
September	220,000	647,000	322,000	734,000	283,000	52,700	2,670	5,050
October	220,000	645,000	322,000	732,000	283,000	52,700	2,670	5,050
November	220,000	645,000	322,000	725,000	283,000	52,700	2,670	5,050
December	220,000	645,000	322,000	718,000	283,000	52,700	2,670	5,050
1997:								
January	220,000	637,000	322,000	704,000	283,000	52,700	2,670	5,050
February	220,000	633,000	322,000	695,000	283,000	52,700	2,670	5,050
March	220,000	627,000	318,000	695,000	283,000	52,700	2,670	5,050
April	220,000	626,000	318,000	695,000	283,000	52,700	2,670	5,050
May	220,000	620,000	312,000	689,000	283,000	52,700	2,670	5,050
June	217,000	614,000	309,000	689,000	283,000	52,700	2,670	5,050

1/ Includes specification and non-specification grade materials and materials set aside for disposal but not yet shipped.

2/ Data are rounded to three significant digits.

Source: Defense National Stockpile Center.

TABLE 3
U.S. EXPORTS OF CHROMITE ORE, CHROMIUM FERROALLOYS AND METAL 1/

Period	Chromite ore		Chromium ferroalloys 2/			Chromium metal 3/	
	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Gross weight (metric tons)	Chromium content (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
1996:							
May	1,730	\$1,160	472	288	\$597	76	\$863
June	37,900	4,270	490	291	583	143	1,110
July	1,920	568	1,320	797	1,640	214	1,820
August	1,060	564	676	411	694	63	717
September	614	132	955	554	912	137	772
October	1,310	152	1,100	680	956	97	1,010
November	1,390	486	1,450	852	1,350	93	825
December	1,060	214	6,200	3,750	3,140	89	1,090
Jan.-Dec.	69,400	11,100	15,800	9,520	14,000	1,330	12,800
1997:							
January	1,540	364	635	405	718	60	600
February	5,930	977	975	609	1,160	142	1,120
March	1,480	487	841	527	939	180	1,260
April	1,830	376	1,060	561	1,300	379	2,610
May	1,230	237	1,020	585	1,030	387	2,820
Total	12,000	2,440	4,540	2,690	5,150	1,150	8,410

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes low-, medium-, and high-carbon ferrochromium, and ferrochromium-silicon.

3/ Includes wrought and unwrought and waste and scrap.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF CHROMITE ORE,
FERROCHROMIUM, AND CHROMIUM METAL 1/

(Metric tons)

	1996	1997			
	Jan.-Dec.	March	April	May	Jan.-May
Chromite ore:					
Not more than 40% chromic oxide:					
Gross weight	8,030	40	--	40	5,860
Chromic oxide content	2,650	16	--	14	1,940
More than 40% but less than 46% chromic oxide:					
Gross weight	25,400	--	14,200	18	14,300
Chromic oxide content	11,100	--	6,550	8	6,560
46% or more chromic oxide:					
Gross weight	217,000	86,900	17,700	--	140,000
Chromic oxide content	102,000	40,700	8,180	--	65,400
Total, all grades:					
Gross weight	250,000	86,900	32,000	58	160,000
Chromic oxide content	116,000	40,800	14,700	22	73,900
Ferrochromium:					
Low-carbon: 2/					
Gross weight	60,700	7,380	6,530	10,100	33,100
Chromium content	38,400	4,620	4,380	6,770	21,700
Medium-carbon: 3/					
Gross weight	36	--	--	210	227
Chromium content	23	--	--	137	148
High-carbon: 4/					
Gross weight	359,000	29,400	33,200	20,500	109,000
Chromium content	207,000	14,000	20,400	12,800	63,400
Total, all grades					
Gross weight	420,000	36,800	39,700	30,800	143,000
Chromium content	246,000	18,600	24,800	19,700	85,300
Chromium metal:					
Other than waste and scrap	8,670	846	892	1,030	4,210
Waste and scrap	67	--	--	1	3
Total, all grades	8,730	846	892	1,030	4,220

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Ferrochromium containing not more than 3% carbon.

3/ Ferrochromium containing more than 3% carbon but not more than 4% carbon.

4/ Ferrochromium containing more than 4% carbon.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 5
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF CHROMITE ORE IN MAY 1997,
BY GRADE AND BY COUNTRY 1/

Country	May			January-May		
	Gross weight (metric tons)	Cr ₂ O ₃ (metric tons)	Value 2/ (thousands)	Gross weight (metric tons)	Cr ₂ O ₃ (metric tons)	Value 2/ (thousands)
Not more than 40% chromic oxide:						
China	20	7	\$6	20	7	\$6
Philippines	--	--	--	5,780	1,910	1,050
South Africa	--	--	--	40	16	6
Venezuela	20	7	6	20	7	6
Total	40	14	12	5,860	1,940	1,070
More than 40% but less than 46% chromic oxide:						
South Africa	18	8	2	14,300	6,560	1,070
46% or more chromic oxide:						
Canada	--	--	--	13	6	5
Russia	--	--	--	22	261	117
South Africa	--	--	--	140,000	65,100	8,860
Total	--	--	--	140,000	65,400	8,980
Total, all grades:						
Canada	--	--	--	13	6	5
China	20	7	6	20	7	6
Philippines	--	--	--	5,780	1,910	1,050
Russia	--	--	--	22	261	117
South Africa	18	8	2	154,000	71,700	9,940
Venezuela	20	7	6	20	7	6
Total	58	22	14	160,000	73,900	11,100

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Customs import value generally represents a value in the foreign country and therefore excludes U.S. import duties, freight, insurance and other charges incurred in bringing the merchandise to the United States.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF FERROCHROMIUM IN MAY 1997,
BY GRADE AND BY COUNTRY 1/

Country	May			January-May		
	Gross weight (metric tons)	Chromium content (metric tons)	Value 2/ (thousands)	Gross weight (metric tons)	Chromium content (metric tons)	Value 2/ (thousands)
High-carbon ferrochromium: 3/						
Canada	--	--	--	20	9	\$2
China	3,930	2,500	\$2,570	7,560	4,690	4,780
Croatia	3,000	2,000	1,240	3,000	2,000	1,240
India	3,850	2,410	2,240	5,390	3,390	3,090
Kazakstan	132	92	281	262	193	445
Russia	--	--	--	9,870	3,850	7,790
South Africa	1,500	737	512	30,500	13,300	11,600
Turkey	8,000	4,960	4,730	29,100	21,000	18,100
United Kingdom	73	50	48	79	54	58
Zimbabwe	--	--	--	23,700	15,000	13,800
Total	20,500	12,800	11,600	109,000	63,400	60,900
Medium-carbon ferrochromium: 4/						
Russia	210	137	240	210	137	240
Switzerland	--	--	--	17	11	16
Total	210	137	240	227	148	256
Low-carbon ferrochromium: 5/						
China	320	212	430	1,970	1,290	2,440
Germany	1,730	1,210	4,180	5,180	3,620	13,100
Japan	16	12	37	264	102	475
Kazakstan	147	95	179	988	642	1,150
Russia	6,620	4,540	8,110	17,200	11,700	22,100
South Africa	1,300	705	590	5,820	3,300	4,790
Turkey	--	--	--	100	73	164
Zimbabwe	--	--	--	1,560	1,040	1,890
Total	10,100	6,770	13,500	33,100	21,700	46,000
Total, all grades:						
Canada	--	--	--	20	9	2
China	4,250	2,710	3,000	9,520	5,980	7,220
Croatia	3,000	2,000	1,240	3,000	2,000	1,240
Germany	1,730	1,210	4,180	5,180	3,620	13,100
India	3,850	2,410	2,240	5,390	3,390	3,090
Japan	16	12	37	264	102	475
Kazakstan	279	188	460	1,250	835	1,600
Russia	6,830	4,680	8,350	27,300	15,700	30,100
South Africa	2,800	1,440	1,100	36,300	16,600	16,400
Switzerland	--	--	--	17	11	16
Turkey	8,000	4,960	4,730	29,200	21,100	18,200
United Kingdom	73	50	48	79	54	58
Zimbabwe	--	--	--	25,200	16,000	15,700
Total	30,800	19,700	25,400	143,000	85,300	107,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Customs import value generally represents a value in the foreign country and therefore excludes U.S. import duties, freight, insurance and other charges incurred in bringing the merchandise to the United States.

3/ Ferrochromium containing more than 4% carbon.

4/ Ferrochromium containing more than 3% but not more than 4% carbon.

5/ Ferrochromium containing not more than 3% carbon.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 7
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF CHROMIUM METAL IN
MAY 1997, BY GRADE AND BY COUNTRY 1/

Country	May		January-May	
	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value 2/ (thousands)	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value 2/ (thousands)
Waste and scrap:				
Canada	1	\$6	3	\$14
Mexico	--	--	(3/)	2
Total	1	6	3	15
Other than waste and scrap:				
Belgium	18	115	18	115
Bulgaria	80	276	80	276
Canada	(3/)	2	(3/)	2
China	240	1,430	1,030	6,040
France	109	880	717	5,920
Germany	1	23	19	254
Hong Kong	--	--	85	505
Italy	--	--	1	9
Japan	2	465	109	2,610
Russia	460	2,810	1,500	9,480
Spain	--	--	3	3
Switzerland	--	--	(3/)	22
Taiwan	1	8	10	38
United Kingdom	115	902	637	5,450
Venezuela	--	--	(3/)	2
Total	1,030	6,910	4,210	30,700
Total, all grades:				
Belgium	18	115	18	115
Bulgaria	80	276	80	276
Canada	1	7	3	15
China	240	1,430	1,030	6,040
France	109	880	717	5,920
Germany	1	23	19	254
Hong Kong	--	--	85	505
Italy	--	--	1	9
Japan	2	465	109	2,610
Mexico	--	--	(3/)	2
Russia	460	2,810	1,500	9,480
Spain	--	--	3	3
Switzerland	--	--	(3/)	22
Taiwan	1	8	10	38
United Kingdom	115	902	637	5,450
Venezuela	--	--	(3/)	2
Total	1,030	6,920	4,220	30,700

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Customs import value generally represents a value in the foreign country and therefore excludes U.S. import duties, freight, insurance and other charges incurred in bringing the merchandise into the United States.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census.